



Pātaka's building has won the 2026 NZIA Enduring Architecture Award.

All of us who love Pātaka understand and enjoy the welcoming presence our building has. Its design and spaces enable Pātaka to thrive as the cultural hub of Porirua: with

galleries, the spine walkway, store, café, garden, library, meeting rooms, embracing our artists and communities and sharing social connections.

Pātaka shared the news on their facebook page as follows:

"Pātaka is beyond thrilled to be named a winner in the Enduring Architecture category at the Wellington Architecture Awards last week. Thank you to Architecture+ for designing a whare that weaves kaupapa, brings people together, and endures!"

"Whether you visit us for culture, connection or you simply enjoy walking through our sun-soaked spine, we know Pātaka is deeply embedded into the Porirua community as well as the wider arts landscape of Aotearoa."

"We would like to acknowledge too, the visionary planning and strategic investment 30 years ago by Darcy Nicholas and the Porirua City Council that shaped Pātaka into the award-winning facility it is today. Ngā mihi nui."



WINTER MUSIC SERIES 2026

Friends of Pātaka Music Series will again offer an eclectic mix of music to entertain us on winter Sunday afternoons from 2 to 3pm from mid-July to mid-August. These concerts are free for Friends and children; \$10 for non-members at the door (koha for the Viard college concert). Eftpos will be available.

This year's line-up is fabulous, so diary the following dates now and check the Friends' Event pages.



BISHOP VIARD COLLEGE NIU CHOIR

19 July, Sunday 2pm: Helen Smith Room

Samoan, Tokelauan & Māori students in this nationally acclaimed multilingual choir perform in a range of musical styles, from barbershop through to choral and waiata,



TE HAU TRIO

26 July, Sunday 2pm: Helen Smith Room,

Karen, Nick and Preman can be found performing

and freelancing with orchestras and ensembles around Wellington and further afield, including the NZSO, the Royal New Zealand Air Force Band, and the Chicago Lyric Opera Orchestra.



NZ SWING QUARTET

9 August, Sunday 2pm: Helen Smith Room, Pātaka

Listen to the pure joy of soulful, vibrant, joyous New Orleans music made famous by Louis Armstrong, Sidney Bechet and more, blended with scintillating Oceanic flair.



KLEZMER REBS

16 August, Sunday 2pm: Helen Smith Room, Pātaka

This world/ethnic music band returns for a rollicking set of Yiddish/European folk to shake your tuchases! Mixing delicate slice-of-life old country tales, intricate harmonies, and wild wedding music, it's a unique cultural experience.

FRIENDS OF PĀTAKA ART AWARDS 2026



There is a month to go before applications close.

The awards are for artists living, working or studying in Porirua. We welcome works in various media such as ceramics, photography, painting, sculpture, mixed media, etc.

All information is available in the [Art Awards pages](#) of Friends website, with the Application form, Conditions of Entry and extra helpful instructions, advice and tips on How to Apply.

A reminder of Key Dates:

- + **25 July, midnight:** Online application closes
- + **1 August:** All applicants will be informed by email of the selectors' decision
- + **14-15 August:** Selected artworks dropped off at Pātaka
- + **21 August:** Prizes awarded and exhibition opens
- + **18 October:** Exhibition closes.

We're excited to see this year's entries – the Awards are always inspiring, with the range and quality of artworks. It's our opportunity to foster our local artists and we love to encourage first-time entrants to experience showing their work in a professional gallery.

For inspiration, remember to check out the reports of the [2024 exhibition opening](#) and [past Awards winners and their entries](#) on our website.

FRIENDS EVENTS

RECENT EVENT



Taonga from the Collections

Wednesday 27 May.

We welcomed a lovely gathering of members to view Pātaka's new initiative: a revolving exhibition wall devoted to displaying an artwork [from the collection](#).

This time the artwork was *Ode to an Abandoned Whaling Station* by Greg O'Brien, with a brief talk by Ioana Gordon-Smith about the artist, who has a history of exhibiting at Pātaka, the work, its context and meaning in his art practice at that time.

Our main focus this first time was making the collection more visible with a fascinating in depth talk by Lotte Kellaway introducing her role as Registrar, a role she loves, that includes: managing the collection and loans of Pātaka's works; managing the receipt, care of loans from galleries, collectors and artists for exhibitions and developing those in person relationships; the collection policy; and the real potential value of the proposed digitisation project.

Gathering up close and focusing in more depth

on one work is an interesting change of focus. We will organise more of these talks for Friends as the works change – and, as members requested, we will spend more time discussing the artwork and artist, along with extending our understanding of how it fits into the scope of the collection for that type of work. Later in the year, we will also organise Lotte to give a back-of-house look at the collection for a small group. Next up is a Brent Wong painting.

If you're interested in his work, Toi Mahara are also showing **Brent Wong: Paintings from the artist's collection** until 30 August.

PĀTAKA EXHIBITIONS

AUTUMN SEASON CLOSES 19 JULY 2026.

Robyn Kahukiwa: Tohunga Mahi Toi

Closing soon, on 13 July 2026

Don't miss this exhibition of works by senior Māori artist, Robyn Kahukiwa (1938-2025), including several works from her iconic *Wāhine Toa* series. Curated by Roma Pōtiki (Te Aupōuri, Te Rarawa), it is developed and toured by The New Zealand Portrait Gallery Te Pūkenga Whakaata, in partnership with Te Manawa Museum.

"Robyn Kahukiwa's artworks have made a difference to Māori. ... Her work has become an alternate visual rendering of Aotearoa's history, through the lens of a Māori woman. The title Tohunga Mahi Toi is a form of recognition and refers to Robyn's status and expertise as an artist, valued here and internationally." – NZ Portrait Gallery, 2024.

Ongo - Closing Event

On Thursday 16 July, 3-4pm, Pātaka is holding a public closing event in the gallery for the show **Ongo: (Re)sounding the Vā**, which brings ancient Tongan music traditions, instruments and sonic pathways into the present. Central to the exhibition is the fangufangu, the Tongan bamboo nose flute. Co-curator Dr Rachael Hall will perform a short fangufangu work. All welcome.

Marama Malama: Te Manavā Moana Women P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A. Inc Commemorates 50 Years in Porirua

20 June–16 August 2026, Bottle Creek Gallery

A celebration of 50 years of P.A.C.I.F.I.C.A. Inc, with portraits of esteemed Pacific women in Porirua photographed by Nu'ugalo Jacinta Mauga.

THE WINTER SEASON OPENS 8 AUGUST.

This season the main galleries celebrate aspects of Porirua's history.

Unwrapped: Whittaker's since 1896

8 August 2026–28 February 2027



This is a celebration of 130 years of the world-famous, made-in-Porirua chocolate company, Whittaker's. They are a world-class chocolate manufacturer, still proudly family-owned four generations on and based in their original Porirua factory. Presented in partnership with Whittaker's, the exhibition invites Chocolate Lovers behind the scenes to discover how a local maker became a global name and includes nostalgic memorabilia.

Mata'AITU (voyeur) by Lindah Lepou

8 August–8 November 2026

Award-winning fa'afafine artist Lindah Lepou shares her world of Pacific couture, while exploring issues of colonisation, exploitation and voyeurism. She weaves her Samoan gafa (genealogy) into Pacific couture as a living fashion art archive. See more including artist bio here.

Tomorrow's histories:

Photographs by Neil Penman

8 August–8 November 2026



Neil Penman's photographs of Porirua mark significant moments in the city's history and honour the legacy of a photographer who believed that 'every photograph taken today becomes

a vital record for the generations of tomorrow'. He dedicated himself to documenting moments of rapid urban transformation in Porirua as they happened. In 2025, Neil's daughters gifted to Pātaka the majority of their father's photographic work, which form the basis of this exhibition.

PORIRUA ARTS TRAIL 2027

20-21 March 2027

The Porirua Arts Trail has announced dates for the 2027 Porirua Arts Trail: Friends are glad to see the biennial Arts Trail continue and to promote this great opportunity for local artists.



The format will be similar to the past with a mixture of studios and hubs open from 10am to 4pm each day. Note there will not be a Plimmerton hub. Registrations are planned to be open in August, and will be open for the whole month, so time to prepare especially if you wish to join forces with another artist and share a private venue.

The Arts Trail organisers encourage artists to register as early as possible especially for those who wish to exhibit at the Pātaka hub, as places there are limited. It is a great opportunity for existing and emergent Porirua artists to showcase and sell their work and provides a really enjoyable experience for our visitors. For more information contact: artstrail@poriruacommunityarts.org.nz

GALLERIES IN OUR REGION

NEW ZEALAND PORTRAIT GALLERY

The Adam Portraiture Award 2026

On until 9 August 2026

The Adam Portraiture Award is Aotearoa's premier prize for painted portraiture.

Also The Adam Portraiture Award 2026: Artists Talk

1 August 2026 11am-noon

Join them for a kōrero with three of this year's Te Whanganui a Tara based Adam Portraiture Award finalists: Sacha Lees, Benjamin Dellabarca and Emma Hercus.

TOI STORE PROFILE



Takayo Ukai

Born and raised in Nagoya, Japan, Takayo Ukai takes inspiration from her heritage and cultural customs to inspire her art practice.

Using the traditional Japanese paper folding technique of origami, Ukai creates stunning jewellery to adorn the body. She seamlessly blends culture, heritage, and skilful technique to produce unique earrings and hair accessories. Ukai has mastered the crane, Koi fish and butterfly among others.

Ukai has lived in the Kapiti Coast for over 40 years, and continues to celebrate the important and cherished art form and popular pastime of origami.

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